



REGION 6

48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563 • (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689

April 6, 2006

Dear Coastal Pink Shrimp Fisher:

Please find the enclosed summaries of Washington landings for the 2005 coastal pink shrimp fishery. This information, and more can be found on-line at www.wdfw.wa.gov; click on Fishing/Shellfishing and scroll down the page to the Coastal Pink Shrimp Fishery link. A copy of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's annual pink shrimp newsletter is included since it provides information pertinent to the Washington fishery. (The newsletter is only provided to those that don't also have an Oregon shrimp delivery license).

State regulations for the coastal pink shrimp fishery remain unchanged from 2005. Fishers are reminded that biological reduction devices (BRDs, or excluders) are mandatory. To further evaluate excluder use in the Washington pink shrimp fishery, WDFW biologists will be conducting dockside interviews this season. The primary objective of these interviews will be to determine the type of excluder in use, and the bar spacing on hard panel excluders. This effort is being undertaken to coordinate Washington data collection and management with Oregon pink shrimp fishery research. The interviews will be short, and each vessel will only need to be interviewed once during the season. Your cooperation with this effort is much appreciated.

Remember, before fishing in any trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA), open access vessels are required to submit a declaration report. For specific instructions, see the enclosed public notice "Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Declaration Requirements for Limited Entry, Open Access and Tribal Fishers" or go to: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Vessel-Monitoring-System/Index.cfm>.

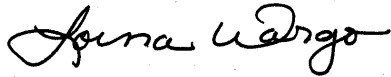
A second public notice from NOAA Fisheries is also enclosed with the management measures for March through December 2006. Please note that only select pages from this public notice have been included: pages 1-7 cover an overview of the regulations, and page 16 is the open access trip limit table. Go to the NOAA Fisheries website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish->

[Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm](#) for the complete notice. To receive public notices by email send a request to: westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov.

Finally, in October 2005 the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended to NOAA Fisheries that the vessel monitoring system (VMS) expand to include open access fisheries (including pink shrimp). If NOAA Fisheries approves this measure, shrimp trawl vessels may need to install VMS systems by 2007. The full report of the Council's recommendation can be found at http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gfvms/NMFS_VMS_EA_Oct05.pdf

Please feel free to call if you need any assistance or have any questions. My phone number is (360) 249-1221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorna Wargo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lorna" and last name "Wargo" clearly distinguishable.

Lorna Wargo
Coastal Shellfish/Marine Fish Biologist

Enclosures (4)